

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Sulphur dioxide is removed from gas streams by contacting the gas stream with an absorbing medium containing an amine capable of forming an amine salt, heat stable salt and sulfite. The level of heat stable salt is selected such that during the regeneration process of the sulphur dioxide rich amine, the pH
5 of the absorbing medium is at a selected level or below when the level of sulfite in the absorbing medium has been reduced to a specified value. The amine that absorbs the sulphur dioxide has a pKa less than that of sulfite. If the absorbent includes a diamine, then the spent absorbing medium is regenerated under conditions such that at least one amine group remains in
10 salt form.